



7. Head up the Path, cross the bridge made of log
Then along the parking lot to the left you will jog
Take the ramp and cross the concrete
To find a trail lined with berries to eat
Down the path find a place of built learning
Listen and you might hear the turbines turning

Dial 1967 - The last step of the Stairway of Power

The Belden Powerhouse was completed in 1967, replacing the popular Yellow Creek Inn, built back in the 1920s at the same location, formerly known as Brown's Bar. A penstock carries water from a reservoir several miles away. This was the last and largest single powerhouse built by PG&E along the North Fork of the Feather River.

How many gallons of water can flow through Belden in one second? _ _ _ _ _

8. Before you depart look high above bridges
To the remnants of burned-over ridges
White trunks are now all that remain
But a new forest returns above the passing train

Dial 2000 - The Year of the Storrie Fire

In the Storrie Fire of 2000, more than 60,000 acres burned and \$22 Million was spent in fire suppression efforts. Both the Plumas & Lassen National Forests were impacted as well as parts of the Bucks Lake Wilderness area. While fire is a natural part of the Feather River Canyon - timber, watershed, wildlife, recreational, and scenic values were all impacted. Currently the US Forest Service and Plumas Unified School District are engaged in restoration activities to restore those values. In time, seedlings and brush fields will give rise to a new forest.

9. Retrace your steps just past the John
Then 16 steps to place your feet on
Curve up and beyond the BBQ
A small trail to your right leads up to a view
Be careful as you climb for there is poison oak
From leaf or stem the itch is no joke!
Stay left at the fork, continue uphill
To find a place where history stands still.

Belden Indian Cemetery holds several grave sites, including those of Susan Belden, her son, and grandson. Susan Belden is credited as being the namesake of Belden, when it was established in the late 1800's. Susan was Maidu and was born on this side of the river at Yellow Creek just prior to the gold rush. Susan's photo and many other historical treasures are on display back across the river where this quest began. Belden's population has fluctuated over the years like the flow of the North Fork beside her, compelled by salmon, gold, rails and road. Today it is a tourist resort for those wanting to visit Plumas County and enjoy its rich natural & recreational resources.

10. Look out across the canyon scene
Can you read the layers of history?

Geologic time cut by river flow
Maidu foot trails lead where native plants grow
Prospectors seeking gold at the beach
Westward expansion in the railroad's screech
Hydro-electricity in the power generation.
All of this makes Belden a tourist destination

In an oak hollow, less than 5 feet from SB
Is a treasure and the end of Belden's mystery
Please take nothing leave only your mark
Refreshment awaits you back at the start

STORRIE FIRE QUEST
50 CHURCH STREET QUINCY, CA
530 283 6500 x.257

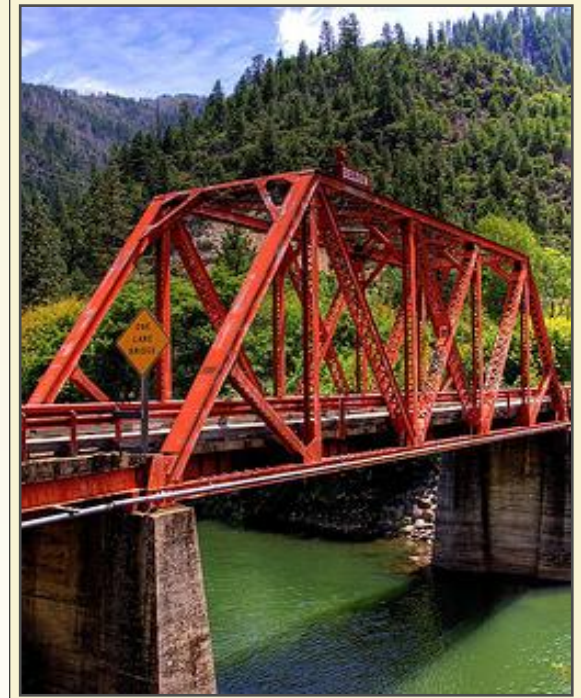


This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



BELDEN

A QUEST THROUGH TIME



A STORRIE FIRE QUEST

Welcome to this Quest. A quest is a treasure hunt to help you to discover the hidden story of a place. This Quest was created through the Storrie Fire Restoration Project by teachers from the Plumas Unified School District in partnership with the Plumas National Forest to enhance educational and recreational opportunities along the Feather River Scenic Byway. If you have 30 minutes to spare, this Quest will change the way you see this small historic town in the FR Canyon. Enjoy!



Belden through Time Quest

Follow these clues and you will see
Hidden secrets from Belden's history
The words in *italics* will guide your go
While those in **bold** will help you know

Begin at the Belden Resort Lodge

1. *This Quest begins on the porch at the plaque
where you'll read gold letters backed in black*

For whom was Belden named? _____

2. *Turn around. A golden anchor you'll see
Beyond to the left? A mighty Douglas Fir tree
And beneath its enormous canopy
A phone booth from the 20th century*

Look inside the booth. What is the street number for
Belden Resort? _____

*A phone booth? No this is a time machine
that will change the way this place is seen.
Everyone touch the phone booth with one hand
And go to a time before Europeans knew this land*

**Dial *1700 – to travel to a time before trappers,
explorers, and miners**

3. *Three granite guardians protect a water source
Next travel to a pit for the shoes of a horse
Pass maple, pass oak, pass a very large pine...
Making your way to the Belden Beach waterline*

Native Americans have inhabited the Sierra Nevada for thousands of years. The Maidu are the native inhabitants of this area. A small group of Maidu are said to have lived on both sides of the river here. They migrated up the canyon from their winter hunting grounds, following the salmon migration during the late summer and early fall. Living off the land, they used native plants like Big Leaf Maple and Grey Willow for weaving baskets, harvested gooseberries and currants, and enjoyed the abundance the Earth provided.

Can you find Big Leaf Maple, Grey Willow and wild berries nearby? _____

4. *Leave the rushing current behind
trudging past the triangulated pine
March toward the red fire box
Turn left at the wall of rocks
Down the road to the cart of ore
Round the bend, oh wait! Here's more?
A bridge of iron one century old
Stop at the plaque so more story can be told*

**Dial *1905 - to travel to the beginning of the
20th century.**

1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	9
*	0	#

This is a portable phone
dialing pad
For travel through times
both good & bad.
Dial * and then the date
You'll land right there
and not be late.

The Utah Construction Co. began work on the railroad here in 1905 for Western Pacific Railroad. The Feather River route was chosen as a low-elevation passage through the Sierra Nevada, following the erosional cut of the Feather River through the crest. From Oroville to Beckwourth Pass, the line was constructed to allow for only a maximum 1% grade for the entire climb, as well as for the entire 927 miles of rail between San Francisco & Salt Lake City. Improved access helped to begin an era of recreation in the FR Canyon. Folks would catch the Western Pacific's "Fisherman's Special" up to Belden for a weekend of prized Rainbow Trout at the Riverside Resort. Settlers and miners living at

Humbug Valley brought wagons down the Longville Road, south to the rail station at Belden Town. The original wooden bridge was replaced with this steel bridge in 1912. From 1909 to 1937 the railroad was king of the canyon.

Where was this bridge manufactured and how was it transported here? _____

5. *A few more steps to the middle of the bridge
Then turn and face the western ridge*

Look downstream. Can you find the confluence of the North Fork of the Feather River and Yellow Creek? This area was formerly known as "Brown's Bar." Now look further west to the mountain made of granite. Ben Lomond Peak stands about 5,000 feet above the river. The difference in elevation in the FR Canyon allows for a wide diversity of plant species. Below the peak is evidence of the 2000 Storrie Fire. The steep canyon formed by the North Fork Feather River cuts a formidable east – west route through the crest of the Sierras. Even with roads and rails the canyon has never been fully tamed.

Can you find the elevation written on the bridge? _____

6. *Board the bus and cross Yellow Creek
An old wooden structure is what you seek
To the west a concrete path leads back in time
To stamps that crushed the ore from a mine*

**Dial 1850 – to travel back to the year Gold
Fever hit the Feather River**



Where two rivers converge a natural gravel bar will form. These deposits can hold gold. During the period of 1851-2 gold fever had a dramatic impact on the Feather River Canyon. European immigrants came rushing in and the native Maidu were largely forced out. The initial gold rush in the FR Canyon was concentrated in a 5 mile stretch north of Belden and brought an estimated 10,000 people to Rich, Pea Soup, Indian, Stony, Missouri, Smith, French, & Junction Bars. After placer-mining success slowed, hard rock-mining utilized stamp mills in the hunt for gold.

Climb to the 1st platform to find the year this mill was patented. _____